

force this institution through the work of the U.S. Senate to not waste the funds that could be used for deficit reduction.

I suggest that as we move into the budget resolution, either at the committee level or at the level of the entire Senate, if necessary, that an amendment be offered to the fiscal year 1996 budget resolution to change the revenue assumption to exclude or reject a major tax cut and instead to explicitly allocate the spending cuts that would offset such a tax cut to deficit reduction, to make sure that every dollar that was identified for spending cuts be immediately transferred into an account to reduce the Federal deficit.

I think that is the only way we avoid the kind of losses and deficit reduction that are the inevitable result of the President's plan and especially the result of the Republican contract and the Archer plan.

So I hope we can return to the wisdom that was indicated by the American people ever since the proposals were made, and I return to what is my favorite cartoon on the issue, which is the somewhat bizarre but rather effective portrayal of a giant deficit monster that is constantly calling out for more and more, in this case more fruit cake in the form of "Tax Cuts R Us." The American people are onto the foolishness of this. They are onto it in the form of cartoons that ridicule a Congress that stands up and talks about fiscal responsibility but cannot resist the temptation to get some quick political gain by handing out a tax cut that will both hurt the economy and severely damage, if not permanently ruin, the possibility of ever having a balanced budget, whether it be in the next few years or by the year 2002.

Mr. President, we will be coming back to this, but I notice in this institution, if you do not keep bringing something up like this, it has a way of getting resolved in the middle of the night and, all of a sudden, you have an up-or-down vote on the whole package. Somehow, whether it be \$10 billion or \$100 billion or \$700 billion, it could be lost instead of actually being used to almost eliminate the Federal deficit. I think that is the opportunity we have. Instead of feeding this monster, reject the tax cuts and take the next big step to eliminate the Federal deficit.

So, Mr. President, as I yield the floor, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the sense-of-the-Senate resolution which Senator BUMPERS, of Arkansas, and I have offered to specifically go on record as a body saying the tax cuts have to take second place to this historic opportunity to eliminate the Federal deficit.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

Mr. THOMAS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

TAIWAN

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I rise today as chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on East Asia and Pacific Affairs to join in the sentiments of my colleagues on Taiwan, and particularly on the visit of President Lee.

I need not repeat in detail for the Senate Taiwan's many accomplishments, either economic or political. These have often been discussed on the Senate floor. It is sufficient to note that this country is our fifth largest trading partner and imports over 17 billion dollars' worth of U.S. products annually. More importantly, though, Taiwan is a model emerging democracy in a region of the world not particularly noted for its long democratic tradition.

The Taiwanese Government has ended martial law, removed restrictions on freedom of the press, legalized the opposition parties, and instituted electoral reforms which last December resulted in free elections.

Taiwan is one of our staunchest friends. I think every Member of this body recognizes that and accords Taiwan a special place among our allies. Unfortunately, Mr. President, the administration apparently does not share our views. Rather, the administration goes out of its way to shun the Republic of China on Taiwan, almost as though it were a pariah state like Libya or Iran.

Sadly, the administration's shoddy treatment of Taiwan is based not on that country's faults or misdeeds but on the dictates of another country, the People's Republic of China. It is because the People's Republic of China continues to claim that it is the sole legitimate Government of Taiwan and because of the administration's almost slavish desire to avoid upsetting that view that the State Department regularly kowtows to Beijing and maltreats the Government of Taiwan. If this were not such a serious matter, it would almost be amusing, the lengths to which the administration goes to avoid any perceived official entanglements.

Representatives of the Taiwan Government are prohibited from physically entering the State Department or the Pentagon buildings. Any United States Government employee who goes to work to represent United States interests in Taiwan and who also works for the State Department must first resign from the State Department before being allowed to go. One has to carefully choose what one calls the island's government to avoid slighting Beijing: Is it the Republic of China, is it the Republic of China on Taiwan, Taiwan, or the Republic of Taiwan?

Finally, the last humiliation to which we subject our ally brings us here this morning. This administration refuses to allow the President of Taiwan to enter this country, even for a private visit—a private visit, Mr. President. President Lee is a graduate of Cornell University where he earned his Ph.D. He has expressed an interest in attending a class reunion at his alma

mater this June and a United States-Taiwan Economic Council conference. Yet, the administration has made it clear it will not permit him entry.

The only people that this country systematically excludes from entry to its shores are felons or criminals, terrorists, and individuals with dangerous communicable diseases. How is it possible that this administration can see fit to add the President of Asia's oldest republic to the list? We have allowed representatives of the PLO and the Sinn Fein to enter this country, yet we exclude a visit by an upstanding private citizen?

I think we have made it clear to Beijing—I know I have tried to—of the great importance to us of our strong relationship with that country. This relationship should in my opinion transcend squabbles over diplomatic minutia. I will always seek to avoid any move that the Government of the People's Republic of China reasonably could find objectionable. I believe that countries like ours should try hard to accommodate each other's needs and concerns in order to further strengthen our relationships.

However, I believe that the People's Republic of China needs to recognize the reality of the situation. Both Taiwan and the People's Republic of China are strong, economically vibrant entities. Both share a common heritage and a common culture and yet have chosen political systems that are mutually exclusive. Despite these differences, the United States has a strong and important relationship with them both, and we need to continue those relationships.

Mr. President, I yield the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I believe the Senator from Nebraska has 15 minutes allotted to him under the unanimous-consent agreement. Is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

(The remarks of Mr. EXON pertaining to the introduction of S. 550 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

UNFUNDED MANDATES CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the conference report to the unfunded mandates bill. I am proud that we are so close to delivering this critical legislation to the nation's Governors, mayors, and town managers who have been laboring under the terrible weight of unfunded mandates.

When the President signs this bill, we will hear a collective sigh of relief from coast to coast. For too long, Congress shifted the cost of these regulations and mandates to the States. Their ledgers bled red from our actions. Their